

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/PRCM:OVARSTRONG:MFR

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 156766

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CH, OVIP

SUBJECT: PROPOSED TRAVEL TO CHINA OF CONGRESSMEN
MONTGOMERY AND HAMMERSCHMIDT

REF: PEKING 1201

FOR AMBASSADOR BUSH FROM GLEYTEEN

1. UNFORTUNATELY, SUBSTANCE REFTTEL INCLUDING PARA 2 WAS
ROUTINELY PASSED TO MONTGOMERY BEFORE WE FOCUSSED ON
POSSIBLE PROBLEMS.

2. THERE IS OF COURSE THE GENERAL PROBLEM OF THE LARGE
NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHO WANT TO GET TO CHINA. IN
THIS INSTANCE, THERE IS THE SPECIAL PROBLEM OF THE TWO
CONGRESSIONAL GROUPS WHO WILL VISIT PEKING IN AUGUST (PERCY
ETC. AND THE OFFICIAL GROUP). MONTGOMERY AIDE HAS ALREADY
INDICATED TO US AN INTEREST IN COST-FREE TRAVEL TO AND FROM
PRC, PERHAPS BY ATTACHING THEMSELVES TO ONE OF THE
CONGRESSIONAL GROUPS, AND WE ARE CONCERNED THAT THEY MAY
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EXPECT TO PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITIES OF THE OTHER CONGRESS-

MEN OR GET SEPARATE BUT EQUAL TREATMENT.

3. IT IS NOT CLEAR TO US WHETHER YOUR MOST RECENT LETTER TO MONTGOMERY MENTIONED PARA 1 REFTEL CONSTITUTED LETTER OF INVITATION TO VISIT PEKING AS PERSONAL HOUSEGUESTS WHICH THEY WOULD USE WITH PRCLO TO OBTAIN VISAS. IN ANY EVENT, IT MAY BE TOO LATE TO SUGGEST POSTPONEMENT, ALTHOUGH WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS. AT MINIMUM, SHOULDN'T WE PASS WORD FROM YOU THAT YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ASK CHINESE TO INCLUDE THEM IN ACTIVITIES OF OTHER CONGRESSIONAL GROUPS OR TO ARRANGE TALKS WITH CHINESE OFFICIALS OR TRAVEL ELSEWHERE IN PRC?

4. WE HAVE IMPRESSION MONTGOMERY ASSUMES EVERYTHING IS FULLY ON TRACK, AND WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE YOUR THOUGHTS BY IMMEDIATE CABLE. INGERSOLL

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